

## Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /097 W

----- 060956

R 251030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2696

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, BG

SUBJ: NEPAL AND THE BANGLADESH COUP

1. NEPALESE OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS ARE WATCHING WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THE UNFOLDING OF EVENTS IN NEIGHBORING BANGLADESH. FOR THEM THE CRITICAL QUESTION IS THE DEGREE TO WHICH INDIA WILL INVOLVE ITSELF DIRECTLY IN BENGALI AFFAIRS. NEPALESE WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED FROM THE KING ON DOWN HAVE ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT DIRECT INDIAN INTERVENTION LIKELY. WE HAVE TAKEN THE LINE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE OR MILITARY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN RIVAL MILITARY UNITS, WE WOULD RATE THE CHANCES OF INDIAN INTERVENTION AS LOW AT THIS TIME.

2. THE GON'S CONCERN ABOUT THE INDIAN POSITION HAS BEEN INCREASED BY THE INDIAN REACTION TO NEPAL'S PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME. THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS MADE CLEAR ITS ANNOYANCE AT THE FAILURE OF THE GON TO CONSULT OR INFORM THE GOI IN ADVANCE OF ITS DECISION TO RECOGNIZE. AS A RESULT THE CLIMATE OF GOOD WILL CREATED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT VITIATED BY THE GON'S  
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DECISION TO BE OUT OF STEP WITH INDIA ON THIS ISSUE.

3. ASSUMING THAT THE INDIANS DO NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN BANGLADESH, THE NEPALESE ARE OTHERWISE REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE CHANGE IN REGIME, WHILE DEPLORING EXECUTIONS OF MUJIB AND HIS FAMILY FOR WHOM THEY HAD CONSIDERABLE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION, GON WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH COMMITTED TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND PAKISTAN. NEPAL NATURALLY ALSO PREFERS TO SEE EMERGE ANOTHER REGIONAL POWER WHICH IS NON-ALIGNED AND WILLING TO PUT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND INDIA. THE GON LOOKS FORWARD TO CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH BANGLADESH AND IS HOPEFUL THAT A TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY WHICH WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE MUJIB GOVERNMENT CAN NOW BE BROUGHT TO FRUITION. POLITICAL TIES WILL BE MAINTAINED AND NEPAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE NEW REGIME. CARGO

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